

IASSIST

QUARTERLY

Volume 8 Number 2

SPRING 1984

In this issue: *Page*

Editor's Log	1
Attrition and the Longitudinal Surveys of Labor Force Behavior	
Patricia Rhoton	2
Message from the President: The Revised Constitution	
Sue Gavrel	17
A Survey of ICPSR Member Institutions	
Ann Janda	30
News And Events	37
1984 IASSIST Conference	39
Membership Information	42

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Patricia Rhoton 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:
THE REVISED CONSTITUTION

Sue Gavrel 17

A SURVEY OF ICPSR MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Ann Janda 30

NEWS AND EVENTS 37

1984 IASSIST CONFERENCE 39

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION 42

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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The Editor's Log

This is the final issue before the annual conference to be held from May 14-18 in Ottawa. You should all have received your registration and session information in a separate mailing. In this issue of the QUARTERLY, the revised constitution has been printed, along with a message from Sue Gavrel, President. You are encouraged to read it carefully and to bring your comments and suggestions to the conference.

There are two interesting papers in this issue. Pat Rhoton of the National Longitudinal Surveys, Ohio State University has written about attrition rates and corrective measures taken with respect to the NLS.

The second article presents the results of a survey of the ICPSR member institutions and their plans for distributed computing environments, conducted by Ann Janda and Lorraine Borman of the Vogelback Computing Center at Northwestern University. The article refers to a lengthy appendix (B), that was not included due to a lack of space. Copies can be obtained from Ms. Janda, at the address given in the article.

Information is also included on the upcoming conference and summer research programs at ICPSR and the SSRC, University of Essex.

I hope to see you all in Ottawa in May.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Stephenson

Elizabeth Stephenson
Editor



Attrition and the Longitudinal Surveys of Labor Force Behavior: Avoidance, Control, and Correction

by

Dr. Patricia Rhoton,
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Since 1966 the Center for Human Resource Research has been analyzing the longitudinal surveys conducted by the Census Bureau for the Department of Labor. The main purpose of these surveys is to study the labor force activity of different population groups. The original groups included men who were 45-59 years old in 1966, women who were 30-44 years old in 1967, men who were 14-24 years old in 1966 and women who were 14-24 years old in 1968. In 1979 a new survey, conducted by the National Opinion Research Center in Chicago, was added for young men and women who were 14-21 in that year. Each of the five surveys is designed to collect information on all phases of the respondent's labor force activity and on other characteristics such as educational attainment, health, family composition, and financial status that are known to be related to such activity.

The original plan in 1965 was to interview the same respondents each year for a period of five years. Because of the usefulness of the data and the relatively small sample attrition, the decision was made at the end of the first five year period to continue for another five years. The interview pattern was changed at this time from a face to face yearly interview to a 2-2-1 pattern. Each respondent was contacted by phone every two years, then again in person one year after the second phone interview. This pattern was used again in the third five-year extension obtained in 1976 and during the fourth five-year extension, obtained in December, 1982. At the time of this most recent extension a study was done looking specifically at attrition within the different cohorts.

Longitudinal studies in general have several advantages over the more frequent cross-sectional studies. While longitudinal studies are very expensive, the data are collected in great detail over time with the respondent reporting events and attitudes as they occur rather than retrospectively. Gathering the data in this way also enables the researcher to go beyond issues of correlations to address the more urgent issues of causality. The main advantage of a longitudinal survey, following the same set of respondents year after year, creates its two major problems, however. The first is the difficulty of locating the respondents for the subsequent interview and the second is maintaining respondent cooperation over repeated interviews.

Attrition in the NLS

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of respondents for all interviews up to and including the 1983 questionnaire. The base year shows only those respondents who were interviewed that first year. Between the original screening and the first interview, part of the eligible respondents were lost: 9.0 percent for the Older Men, 5.5 percent for the Older Women, 8.3 percent for the Young Men, 5.8 percent for the Young Women, and 11.5 percent for the New Youth.

While Table 1 shows the distribution of noninterviews between and among the five cohorts, Tables 2-5 show interview/noninterview status for the four older cohorts by reason for noninterview. While there are shifts in the distribution of a particular noninterview reason during a particular year, a consistency appears in the rate of attrition within each of the four older panels. The method of interview, whether face to face or by telephone, does not seem to affect the attrition rate. Some of these losses to the sample are unavoidable. For the Mature Men (Table 2), for example, an increasing percentage of the sample losses have been due to respondent's death. The Mature Women's Survey (Table 3) has the second highest retention rate among the four older cohorts. This high rate is probably due to the fact that this group is very stable and has low geographic mobility.

The Young Men's Cohort has the lowest rate of retention and has been the test case for new attempts to stop the gradual decline in sample size. A variety of factors account for the difficulty in locating these respondents: completion of school, acquisition of new jobs, formation of families and movement in and out of the military services. The higher rates of attrition in the earlier years were attributed to the influx into military since the sample was drawn and the initial interviewing done during the Vietnam War. However, rates remained high even as the respondents returned from the military.

The Young Women's Cohort, which is similar to the Young Men's with respect to completion of school, acquisition of new jobs and formations of families, had the added challenge of name changes accompanying changes in marital status, yet the overall response rate has remained high.

The New Youth Cohort has benefited greatly from the lessons taught by experience with the older four cohorts. In 1983, the response rate for this group was 96.3 percent. Comparing this cohort with the Young Women in the first five years, the cohort that had the best retention rates of the older cohorts, shows that a difference in procedures and techniques can decrease attrition on a substantial basis.

Not only does NORC have a higher overall interview rate, the organization seems to be better at retrieving respondents. In 1982, of the original 1979 sample, 96.0 percent were interviewed. Some of these had not been interviewed in previous years: 2.2 percent in 1980, 1.1 percent in 1981, and 0.5 percent in 1980 or 1981. Only 165 respondents (one percent) of the original sample has had only one interview after four rounds of the survey. In 1983, the number of respondents who had had only one interview dropped to 115. Over 11 thousand (90.7) of the respondents were interviewed every year, and 5.5 percent had completed four out of the five interviews.

Table 1 National Longitudinal Surveys Retention Rates

Year	Men 45-59 in 1966			Women 30-44 in 1967			Men 14-24 in 1966			Women 14-24 in 1966			Men 14-21 in 1979			Women 14-21 in 1979		
	Total interviewed	Retention rate	Total interviewed	Total interviewed	Retention rate	Total interviewed	Total interviewed	Retention rate	Total interviewed	Total interviewed	Retention rate	Total interviewed	Total interviewed	Retention rate	Total interviewed	Total interviewed	Retention rate	Total interviewed
1966	5,034	100.0				5,225		100.0										
1967	4,751	94.4	5,083		100.0	4,790		91.7										
1968	4,661	92.6	4,910		96.6	4,318		82.6		5,159		100.0						
1969	4,388	87.2	4,712		92.7	4,033		77.2		4,930		95.6						
1970						3,993		76.4		4,766		92.4						
1971	4,182	83.1	4,575		90.0	3,987		76.3		4,714		91.4						
1972			4,471		88.0					4,625		89.6						
1973	3,951	78.5				4,014		76.8		4,424		85.8						
1974			4,322		85.0													
1975	3,732	74.1				3,977		76.1		4,243		82.2						
1976	3,487	69.3	4,172		82.1	3,696		70.7										
1977			3,966		78.0					4,071		78.9						
1978	3,219	63.9				3,538		67.7		3,823		76.1						
1979			3,812		75.0								6,398		100.0		6,288	100.0
1980	3,001	59.6				3,438		65.8		3,801		73.7		6,087		95.1	6,054	96.3
1981	2,834	56.2	3,677		72.3	3,398		64.9					6,125		95.7		6,070	96.5
1982			3,542		69.7					3,650		70.8		6,083		95.1	6,040	96.1
1983	2,634	52.3								3,545		68.7		6,143		96.0	6,078	96.7

Table 2 Interview/Noninterview Status for Survey of Mature Men

Year	Total inter-views	Noninterview															Noninterview Reten- tion rate ⁴	
		Total #	% ¹	Deceased #	% ²	Refused #	% ²	Unable to contact #	% ²	Ten- porarily absent #	% ²	Institu- tionalized #	% ²	Armed forces #	% ²	Other #		% ²
1966	5,034	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1967	4,751	283	5.6	60	21.2	107	37.8	93	32.9	8	2.8	-	-	-	-	15	5.3	-
1968	4,661	206	4.2	75	36.4	50	24.3	66	32.0	3	1.5	1	0.5	-	-	11	5.3	-
1969	4,388	330	7.0	102	30.9	92	27.9	88	26.7	17	5.1	13	3.9	-	-	18	5.5	24
1970	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1971	4,182	323	7.2	169	52.3	56	17.3	56	17.3	15	4.6	17	5.3	-	-	10	3.1	19
1972	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1973	3,951	303	7.1	175	57.7	42	13.9	62	20.5	3	1.0	14	4.6	-	-	7	2.3	26
1974	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1975	3,732	281	7.0	174	61.9	43	15.3	37	13.2	3	1.1	13	4.6	-	-	11	3.9	24
1976	3,487	294	7.8	100	34.0	128	43.5	22	7.5	18	6.1	14	4.8	-	-	12	4.1	15
1977	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1978	3,219	316	8.9	163	51.6	73	23.1	38	12.0	12	3.8	26	8.2	-	-	4	1.3	14
1979	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1980	3,001	289	8.8	202	69.9	35	12.1	15	5.2	2	0.7	29	10.0	-	-	6	2.1	13
1981	2,834	202	6.6	99	49.0	59	29.2	11	5.4	5	2.5	26	12.9	0	0.0	1	0.5	56.2

¹Percent of previous year number of interviews.³Noninterviews which are deleted from the sample.⁴The retention rate in the percent of base year respondents who were interviewed.

Table 3 Interview/Noninterview Status for Survey of Mature Women

Year	Total inter-views	Noninterview															Noninterview 2 consecutive years dropped ³	Reten- tion rate ⁴
		Total #	% ¹	Deceased #	% ²	Refused #	% ²	Unable to contact #	% ²	Ten- porarily absent #	% ²	Institu- tionalized #	% ²	Armed forces #	% ²	Other #		
1966	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1967	5,083	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1968	4,910	173	3.4	22	12.7	76	43.9	62	35.8	-	-	1	0.6	-	-	12	6.9	
1969	4,712	273	5.5	13	4.8	134	49.1	87	31.9	16	5.9	7	2.6	-	-	16	5.9	
1970	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1971	4,575	234	4.9	25	10.7	82	35.0	84	35.9	12	5.1	6	2.6	-	-	25	10.7	
1972	4,471	199	4.3	12	6.0	97	48.7	66	33.2	8	4.0	2	1.0	-	-	14	7.0	
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1974	4,322	196	4.3	29	14.8	90	45.9	51	26.0	6	3.1	5	2.6	-	-	15	7.7	
1975	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1976	4,172	212	4.8	30	14.2	101	47.6	48	22.6	5	2.4	7	3.3	-	-	21	9.9	
1977	3,965	267	6.3	9	3.4	181	67.8	41	15.3	10	3.7	6	2.2	-	-	20	7.5	
1978	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1979	3,812	201	5.0	36	17.9	106	52.7	35	17.4	4	2.0	4	2.0	-	-	16	8.0	
1980	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1981	3,680	170	4.4	37	21.8	91	53.5	26	15.3	4	2.4	6	3.5	1	0.5	5	2.9	

¹Percent of previous year number of interviews.³Noninterviews which are deleted from the sample.⁴The retention rate in the percent of base year respondents who were interviewed.

Table 4 Interview/Noninterview Status for Survey of Young Men

Year	Total inter-views	Noninterview														Noninterview 2 consecutive years dropped ³	Reten- tion rate ⁴		
		Total #	% ¹	Deceased #	% ²	Refused #	% ²	Unable to contact #	% ²	Temp- orarily absent #	% ²	Institu- tionalized #	% ²	Armed forces #	% ²			Other #	% ²
1966	5,225	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1967	4,790	435	8.3	14	3.2	66	15.2	83	19.0	4	0.9	-	-	263	60.5	5	1.2	-	91.7
1968	4,318	827	16.1	10	1.2	70	8.5	143	17.3	6	0.7	33	4.0	555	67.1	10	1.2	-	82.6
1969	4,033	994	19.8	11	1.1	54	5.4	181	18.2	10	1.0	43	4.3	689	69.3	6	0.6	38	77.2
1970	3,993	904	18.5	13	1.4	37	4.1	154	17.0	17	1.9	23	2.5	649	71.8	11	1.2	65	76.4
1971	3,987	801	16.7	11	1.4	54	6.7	160	20.0	13	1.6	36	4.5	505	63.0	22	2.7	59	76.3
1972	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1973	4,014	655	14.0	17	2.6	69	10.5	214	37.3	6	0.9	35	5.3	257	39.2	27	4.1	54	76.8
1974	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1975	3,977	552	12.2	13	2.4	88	15.9	212	38.4	1	0.2	31	5.6	180	32.6	27	4.9	54	76.1
1976	3,696	541	12.8	7	1.3	177	32.7	152	28.1	9	1.7	12	2.2	161	29.8	23	4.3	109	70.2
1977	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1978	3,538	472	11.8	21	1.1	114	24.1	164	34.7	8	1.7	18	3.1	122	25.8	25	5.3	82	67.7
1979	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1980	3,438	408	11.9	15	3.7	72	17.6	165	40.4	5	1.2	19	4.7	111	27.2	21	5.1	72	65.8
1981	3,398	391	7.5	7	1.8	107	27.4	126	32.2	8	2.0	16	4.1	111	28.4	16	4.1	0	65.0

¹Percent of previous year number of interviews.³Noninterviews which are deleted from the sample.⁴The retention rate in the percent of base year respondents who were interviewed.

Table 5 Interview/Noninterview Status for Survey of Young Women

Year	Total inter-views	Noninterview													Noninterview 2 consecutive years dropped ³	Retention rate ⁴	
		Total #	% ¹	Deceased #	% ²	Refused #	% ²	Unable to contact #	% ²	Ten- porarily absent #	% ²	Institu- tionalized #	% ²	Armed forces, #			% ²
1966	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1967	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1968	5,159	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1969	4,930	229	4.4	2	0.9	98	42.8	112	48.9	3	1.3	9	3.9	-	5	2.2	-
1970	4,766	293	5.8	6	2.0	74	25.3	136	46.4	21	7.2	7	2.4	-	49	16.7	-
1971	4,714	217	4.4	4	1.8	54	24.9	95	43.8	12	5.5	8	3.7	-	44	20.3	48
1972	4,625	203	4.2	6	3.0	74	36.5	93	45.8	5	2.5	5	2.5	-	20	9.9	45
1973	4,424	285	6.1	4	1.4	116	40.7	108	37.9	4	1.4	4	1.4	-	49	17.2	39
1974	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1975	4,243	307	6.7	5	1.6	114	37.1	132	43.0	5	1.6	2	0.7	-	49	16.0	39
1976	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1977	4,108	274	6.3	3	1.1	113	41.2	114	41.6	5	1.8	2	0.7	-	37	13.5	49
1978	3,902	319	7.5	3	0.9	180	56.4	86	26.9	14	4.4	6	1.9	10	3.1	20	6.3
1979	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1980	3,801	190	4.8	6	3.1	88	46.3	63	33.1	1	0.5	3	1.6	4	2.1	25	13.1

¹Percent of previous year number of interviews.³Noninterviews which are deleted from the sample.⁴The retention rate in the percent of base year respondents who were interviewed.

Table 6 (continued)

Characteristics in 1966	Number of respondents in 1966	# potentially eligible for interview in 1976	Number of respondents in 1976	Total retention rate	1966 sample			1976 sample							
					Unweighted #	% (000)	Weighted 1966 weight # (000)	Unweighted #	% (000)	Weighted 1966 weight # (000)					
Wages and salary															
Equal to zero	777	634	22.5	541	71.1	777	23.5	2876	23.0	541	22.3	2009	21.9	2420	21.8
1-2,999	243	189	6.7	172	91.0	243	7.2	899	7.2	172	7.1	624	6.8	755	6.8
3,000-9,999	1696	1468	52.1	1262	86.0	1696	51.3	6451	51.5	1262	52.1	4790	52.2	5801	52.2
10,000-14,999	447	397	14.1	343	86.4	447	13.5	1732	13.8	343	14.2	1326	14.5	1614	14.5
15,000-19,999	81	77	2.7	58	75.3	81	2.5	333	2.7	58	2.4	238	2.6	290	2.6
+ 20,000	60	54	1.9	47	87.0	60	1.8	235	1.9	47	1.9	185	2.0	226	2.0

¹Excludes death, military and out of country.

²Those employed survey week.

The Impact of Attrition in Representativeness

This gradual decline in sample size over time becomes very important if it results in a biased sample. While each cohort was checked at the end of the first five year series of interviews and smaller checks were made in the context of reports on occupational distribution, educational attainment, age distributions and marital status with nationally represented published data, no one looked at all the cohorts systematically until 1982. At this point the issue of representativeness had to be addressed as part of the proposal to extend the cohorts for another five years.

Such a study could be done in essentially two ways. First, the remaining sample could be compared against some outside group, such as one from the Decennial Census or the Current Population Survey. Comparison with an outside sample was difficult given time constraints and the fact that the Decennial Census data were not yet ready for release. While the CPS data were available, differences between the CPS and each of the four older cohorts had already been documented in the first year. The second alternative was to compare the characteristics of all respondents interviewed in the initial year to see how much difference, if any, there actually was. Each cohort was checked for differences in the age distributions, educational attainment levels, employment status, industry and occupation distributions, educational attainment levels, employment status, industry and occupation distributions, marital status, SMSA status, annual income distribution and wages and salary distribution. The Young Men and Young Women were also checked on enrollment status.

A separate evaluation was done by race for each of the four cohorts. Table 6 is an example of the type of table constructed for each group. The ten year sample was weighted using two methods: the entry level weight and a ten year weight, which includes successive adjustments for each year's noninterview. For all the cohorts except the Young Men the relevant comparison was between the entry year weighted figures and the ten year sample using the ten year weight. In the Young Men's Cohort, the 1966 sample using the 1966 weights was compared to the 1976 sample using the 1966 weights because the 1976 weight had been adjusted to include individuals formerly in the military. Since young men already in the military had been deliberately excluded from the Young Men's sample, using the 1976 weight could create apparent differences where none existed. For this group alone, it was more appropriate to use the 1966 weight.

Table 7 summarizes the distribution of differences by cohort and shows that for most of the characteristics the differences between the two samples were less than two percentage points. After the differences were identified, statistical tests of significance were computed for each of the comparisons. Table 8 shows the number of statistically significant differences at various levels for each cohort by race. While the number of differences were higher than would be expected by chance, several were based upon small sample cases in the initial year and characteristics with only two values. In the latter cases a statistically significant result in one category means the other category will also be statistically different.

After reviewing the entire set of tables it was clear that the noninterviews had not seriously distorted the representativeness of the sample. Given this finding and the ability to change the weights to eliminate any potential bias, the decision was made to continue all four surveys for another five years.

Table 7 Number and Percentatge of Differences by Panel

Panel	Absolute differences (%)			Total
	0-2	2-3	3+	
Mature men				
Black	34 (73.9)	8 (17.4)	4 (8.7)	46 (100.0)
White	43 (95.6)	2 (4.4)	0	45 (100.0)
Mature women				
Black	42 (93.3)	3 (6.7)	0	45 (100.0)
White	45 (100.0)	0	0	45 (100.0)
Young men				
Black	30 (73.2)	5 (12.2)	6 (14.6)	41 (100.0)
White	43 (97.7)	1 (2.3)	0	44 (100.0)
Young women				
Black	33 (82.5)	6 (15.0)	1 (2.5)	40 (100.0)
White	40 (95.2)	2 (4.8)	0	42 (100.0)

Table 8 Number and Percentage of Statistically Significant Differences by Panel

Panel	Level of significance		
	1%	2%	3%
Mature men			
Black	4 (9.1)	7 (15.9)	12 (27.3)
White	4 (9.1)	7 (15.9)	14 (31.8)
Mature women			
Black	2 (4.5)	2 (4.5)	3 (6.8)
White	1 (2.3)	4 (9.3)	5 (11.6)
Young Men			
Black	1 (2.6)	4 (10.3)	6 (15.4)
White	2 (4.7)	4 (9.3)	6 (14.0)
Young women			
Black	1 (2.6)	3 (7.9)	4 (10.5)
White	1 (2.6)	2 (5.1)	2 (5.1)

It is unclear, however, how further erosion of the samples will affect this representativeness. Concern with this issue, together with the high noninterview rates that NORC was having with the New Youth sample, led to an evaluation of the rules that had been established in the original five year period and an attempt to see if it was possible to retrieve some of the noninterview cases.

Retrieving Former Noninterview Cases

Since the Young Men panel had lost the most respondents, it was the target for the first attempt at retrieval. Respondents from the 1975, 1976, 1978 and 1980 survey years who normally would not have been included in the workload (i.e., attempted to be contacted) because of their noninterview status for those years (refused, unable to contact, institutionalized, moved outside the U.S.) were sorted and a sample of 279 respondents selected.

Several changes occurred in procedures for contacting these special respondents. No restrictions were placed on the number of telephone calls, mileage or time spent in locating and retrieving these respondents. Each interviewing packet included the respondent's most recently completed interview and household record card, as well as the most recent questionnaire and all record cards for any other household members participating in any of the other cohorts. In addition, an expanded list of methods of locating respondents was included. As a result of these additional steps, 104 (37.3 percent) respondents were interviewed. These have been identified and will be checked as soon as the data tapes are available from the Census Bureau to see if they differ in any way from the rest of the respondents. If these respondents remain in the sample for the next round of interviews in the last part of 1983, a concerted effort may be made to use these procedures during the regular interviews and in similar attempts to retrieve noninterviews in the other three cohorts.

Differences Between Census and NORC

One of the biggest differences between Census and NORC is the amount of locating information obtained from the respondent. NORC gets more information and asks for individuals with specific relationships depending upon the respondent's circumstances. The interviewer starts by asking the name, relationship, address, and phone number of the person most likely to know where the respondent is. If the respondent is living in a dormitory, fraternity, sorority, hospital or other temporary situation, the interviewer is instructed to obtain the name and relationship of a householder at a permanent home address. If the respondent is married and living apart from a spouse, the spouse's address and telephone number are requested. If the respondent is not living with a parent and has not provided a parent's name, this information is obtained, including whether or not the parents live together. The name of another relative with whom the respondent is in contact and the names of friends and places where the respondent goes when not spending spare time at home are also obtained. Respondents are also asked nicknames, maiden names if they are married women, and whether or not they expect to move in the next 12 months.

This extensive list gives the NORC interviewer a real advantage when contacting someone on the list, since the ability to mention the respondent's parents, relatives, friends, hangouts or nicknames demonstrates that the interviewer knows the respondent to some degree and may make the reference more willing to give out

information about the respondent. Another major advantage that the NORC interviewer has over the Census interviewer is the existence of a centralized locating shop in Chicago. The person working at the locating shop has access to all previous questionnaires, original copies of locator documents and information about the respondent's brothers and sisters. Working with this additional data, the respondent can usually be located by phone and reassigned to the same or another interviewer. The Census interviewer starts out with less information to locate the respondent. S/he has a questionnaire with a label indicating the respondent's name and most recent home address. In addition, there is a household record card for each respondent that contains the telephone numbers, all the addresses where the respondent has lived since the survey began, the names of all persons who have lived with the respondent, and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all persons who have lived with the respondent, and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of only two persons who will always know where s/he can be reached.

Besides the more extensive locating supplement that NORC builds in the interview, several other differences appear. For the New Youth cohort, each respondent is paid \$10.00 for a completed interview, since many researchers believe that even a small amount of money helps in obtaining cooperation, especially among younger respondents. The New Youth respondents also had the opportunity to take a series of tests that the Department of Defense needed to evaluate tests given to individuals in the military. For these tests, which take several hours, the respondents were paid \$50.00. When the four older cohorts were first interviewed, paying respondents was not as well accepted. Now there are fears that starting this procedure with the older cohorts would cause concern on the part of the respondents.

Another procedural difference is that in the New Youth cohort, the respondents are told up front that they will be interviewed each year for the next several years and are therefore aware that they will be contacted about the same time next year. The Census interviewers are told only that they may be conducting additional surveys, and should not tell the respondents that this is the last time s/he will be interviewed. The lack of an answer to give the respondent, in addition to the 2-2-1 pattern, probably leaves the respondent without a sense of when or if s/he will be contacted again. While this ambiguity may not have an impact on their cooperation in the survey, the NORC approach leaves the respondent with a greater feeling of certainty about the interviewing schedule.

Revising the Rule for Dropping Respondents

After the first year respondents from the four older cohorts who refused to participate or had died were dropped from the Census sample. Those who were not interviewed for any reason for two consecutive years were also dropped. The only exception was made for the Young Men's sample with the respondents who were in the Armed Forces. Since the sample was to represent the national civilian, non-institutionalized population, the young men were not interviewed while they were in the Armed Forces but they were retained in the sample and picked up the first interview after they left the services. However, NORC's success in retrieving respondents even after they refused and the success in the Young Men retrieval effort resulted in a change in these rules. Currently no respondent will be dropped except those who have died. NORC goes back each year and attempts to interview all living respondents.

Maintaining Respondent Cooperation

While both Census and NORC send out advance letters about the entire survey stressing the importance of the respondents' cooperation, NORC also sends out a newsletter that tells respondents in a very "chatty" format about some general results of the previous survey. The Census Bureau had a short, formal fact sheet that goes out with the cover letter, but the interviewers reported that the respondents did not feel it was very useful. For the 1982 Young Women's Survey, a more extensive description of the surveys and a list of the research results from the survey were sent to any respondent who filled out a postcard requesting additional information. Over one-third of the respondents interviewed in that wave mailed in the postcard. A variable will be created identifying these respondents and if reception of the handbook increases the response rate for the next round, the handbook will be offered to respondents in the other three cohorts.

Conclusions

The New Youth Survey at this time has considerably better response rates than any of the four older cohorts. A great part of this success can be traced to solving problems that developed over time in the older four cohorts. While the necessity of keeping the same measures over time prevented change in the older four cohorts, these problems were corrected in the first wave of the New Youth. Questions that the respondents or the interviewer had difficulty with in the older four cohorts were altered so that there was no confusion from the very beginning. Perhaps most important, given the highly mobile nature of this age group, much more detail was obtained on individuals who would always know where the respondent was. In addition, more information about the survey was given to the respondent before, during and after each interview. All of these factors combined have resulted in a response rate that is very good for any survey and exceptional for a longitudinal survey in its fifth year.



Message from the President

The Revised Constitution

As many members know, the review and revision of the Constitution of IASSIST has taken several years to complete. The Constitution was approved at the May 18, 1983 Business Meeting in Philadelphia. Several calls were made to the membership prior to the meeting for input, criticisms and changes, and many members took the time to provide written comments. Some minor changes were suggested at the meeting last May, and these have been incorporated.

As I have mentioned several times, work on the review of any constitution is difficult and time consuming. However, the importance of a good, well structured constitution cannot be stressed enough. The transfer of the Treasurer this year from Ed Hanis at the University of Western Ontario to Jackie McGee at RAND Corporation in Santa Monica has underlined some of the difficulties which confront international organizations. Some of these kinds of difficulties can be overcome if the constitution is clear and well structured.

The revised constitution has defined the composition of the Administrative Committee, the Officers of the Association, and their functions. Article XII provides a more detailed description of the Duties of the President, Vice-President, Regional Secretariats and Appointive Officials. Section 5 of Article XII sets up five Standing Committees and outlines the composition of those committees.

I would hope that at the next IASSIST Business Meeting members interested in serving on these committees could be identified and the committees could begin to take an active role in advising the Administrative Committee and the membership on matters within their scope of responsibility. This can provide an opportunity for more participation from the membership. Each Standing Committee requires two members from the regular membership of IASSIST. Any member interested in serving on one of the committees should contact either the Secretariat in the region or a member of the Administrative Committee. The Nominations and Elections Committee will be active in 1984 as the election of the Administrative Committee is slated for the fall of 1984.

I hope that all members will take the time to read the constitution and will think seriously about taking an active role on the committees. Many people were involved in the review and revision of the constitution, and I would like to thank all of them for their work. Particular thanks go to Harold Naugler, who prepared the first draft, and to the Constitutional Review Committee chaired by Carolyn Geda, who spent considerable time working through all the detailed changes.

Ms. Sue Gavrel
President, IASSIST

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY/ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LES SERVICES ET TECHNIQUES D'INFORMATION EN SCIENCES SOCIALES, hereafter referred to as "IASSIST".

ARTICLE II - HEADQUARTERS

The official headquarters of IASSIST will be located with the Treasurer.

ARTICLE III - OBJECTIVES

All activities of IASSIST will be based upon the following objectives:

- 3.1 To encourage and support the establishment of local and national information centers for social science machine-readable data.
- 3.2 To foster international exchange and dissemination of information regarding substantive and technical developments related to social science machine-readable data.
- 3.3 To coordinate international programs, projects, and general efforts that provide a forum for discussion of issues relating to social science machine-readable data.
- 3.4 To promote the development of standards for social science machine-readable data.
- 3.5 To encourage educational experiences for personnel engaged in work related to these objectives.

ARTICLE IV - ACTIVITIES

To accomplish the objectives of IASSIST, some or all of the following activities may be conducted with the approval of the Administrative Committee on a national or regional basis and the submission of an appropriate report:

4.1 COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

Committees may be established and groups of members organized to undertake specific tasks, to find solutions to specific problems, to develop and compile relevant material for specific projects, and to disseminate information on specific subjects.

4.2 CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, TRAINING SESSIONS

Members may convene organized efforts on any subject consistent with IASSIST objectives.

4.3 PUBLICATIONS

A Newsletter will be published and regularly circulated to all members, as well as to others wishing to subscribe. Other kinds of publications may be produced on occasions.

4.4 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Efforts will be made to cooperate with other organizations in joint projects and activities when these are consistent with IASSIST objectives.

4.5 OTHER

Other activities that advance the objectives of IASSIST may be undertaken from time to time.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

5.1 The membership shall consist of regular and student members, and shall be open to such persons as are interested in supporting the objectives of IASSIST.

5.2 Membership in IASSIST shall include a subscription to the Newsletter.

5.3 Resignations of any members shall become effective immediately upon receipt by the Treasurer of IASSIST. Resignation shall imply forfeiture of the annual membership fee.

ARTICLE VI - FINANCES

6.1 The fiscal year of IASSIST shall begin 1 January and end 31 December.

6.2 Membership fees for regular and student members shall be paid annually to the Treasurer by 1 March of each fiscal year.

6.3 The rate of membership fees may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the members on a mail ballot or during the Business Meeting of the General Assembly. Mail ballots will be undertaken between October and December of any calendar year. The results of such ballots or votes will go into effect on 1 March of the following year. In the event of a vote during the Business Meeting of the General Assembly, the membership will be

informed prior to the Business Meeting and proxy ballots will be made available.

ARTICLE VII - GOVERNANCE

7.1 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IASSIST shall consist of a General Assembly composed of all regular and student members. The General Assembly will be organized by geographic regions. The establishment of a region must be approved by the Administrative Committee.

7.2 FUNCTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly will establish general policies for IASSIST and elect the members of the Administrative Committee, as well as the officers of the Association. Each region will, in addition, elect its own administrative officer who will be known as the Regional Secretary.

7.3 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

The Administrative Committee will be the executive body of IASSIST, and shall be composed of at least 10 members elected by the General Assembly from its membership. The composition of the Administrative Committee will reflect the geographic distribution of the members of IASSIST and will be based on the number of members in each geographic region; the Regional Secretaries; the immediate past-President of IASSIST; the President and Vice-President; and the Treasurer, the Editor, and the Secretary-Archivist, the last three individuals having been appointed by the President with approval of the Administrative Committee.

The elected members of the Administrative Committee, including the Regional Secretaries, will serve a three-year term and may serve no more than three consecutive terms.

7.4 FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

The Administrative Committee will implement policies, develop future directions, and coordinate activities for IASSIST. The Administrative Committee will organize the General Assembly into geographic regions, determine the number of Administrative Committee members from each geographic region, and call meetings of the General Assembly at least once every year. The Administrative Committee will also establish Committees and Groups as required.

7.5 OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Nominations Committee will propose candidates for the offices of President and Vice-President, to be voted upon by

the General Assembly. These officers shall serve a three-year term and may serve no more than three consecutive terms.

7.6 ROLE OF THE OFFICERS

The officers of IASSIST will be responsible for the conduct of business of the ASSOCIATION between meetings of the Administrative Committee.

7.7 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will consist of the Officers, plus other members of the Administrative Committee as required and designated by the Officers.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

- 8.1 The annual meeting of the General Assembly shall be held at a time and place chosen by the Administrative Committee.
- 8.2 Special meetings of the General Assembly may be called by the Administrative Committee.
- 8.3 The Secretary shall give notice to the members as to the time and place of the annual meeting or special meeting not less than two months prior to the scheduled meeting.
- 8.4 A quorum shall consist of 40 members.

ARTICLE IX - ELECTIONS

- 9.1 A Nominations and Elections Committee will be appointed by the Administrative Committee.
- 9.2 The Nominations and Elections Committee shall conduct an election in each geographic region for officers of IASSIST, members of the Administrative Committee, and the Regional Secretaries. Members within each designated geographic region shall only be entitled to nominate and vote for the Regional Secretary in their home region. However, all members will be entitled to nominate and vote for the officers of IASSIST and the other members of the Administrative Committee.

In the event that competitive circumstances do not exist for a Regional Secretary, the Regional Secretary may be appointed by the Administrative Committee.

- 9.3 A public call for nominations will be sent out by the Nominations and Elections Committee. Voting will be conducted by mail ballot. Elections will be held every three years.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution of IASSIST may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members on a mail ballot, such ballots to be undertaken between October and December of any calendar year, the results of such ballots to go into effect at the following year's annual meeting of the General Assembly, provided that:

10.1 notice of the proposed amendments shall have been given in writing to the Standing Committee on Constitutional Review with the written support of at least five (5) members in good standing of the ASSOCIATION; and

10.2 two month's notice of the proposed amendments is given in writing to all members of the ASSOCIATION prior to the conduct of the mail ballot.

ARTICLE XI - TERMINATION

IASSIST may be dissolved by a majority of the members. All property and funds of IASSIST will be transferred to a branch of UNESCO to be determined by the Administrative Committee.

ARTICLE XII - BY-LAWS

SECTION 1

DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

12.1 The President shall:

- (i) be the principal officer of IASSIST;
- (ii) provide leadership and guidance in the realization of IASSIST's objectives;
- (iii) preside at all meetings of the General Assembly and the Administrative Committee;
- (iv) be an ex-officio member of all Standing Committees and shall coordinate their activities;
- (v) represent IASSIST in its dealings with external bodies and agencies, particularly those at the international level; and
- (vi) report on the state of IASSIST at each annual meeting of the General Assembly.

SECTION 2

DUTIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

12.2 The Vice-President shall:

- (i) perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President in the absence or disability of the latter;
- (ii) assist the President in recommending measures to further the objectives of IASSIST when and as often as requested;
- (iii) be an ex-officio member of all Action and Interest Groups and coordinate their activities, and be responsible for proposing the Coordinators to the Administrative Committee and maintaining regular contact with such Action and Interest Groups throughout the year; and
- (iv) in the event of the resignation, death, or incapacity of the President, succeed as acting President for the duration of the then President's term.

SECTION 3

DUTIES OF THE REGIONAL SECRETARIES

12.3 The Regional Secretaries shall:

- (i) be the primary officers of IASSIST in their respective regions, working closely with the President of IASSIST;
- (ii) provide leadership and guidance in the realization of IASSIST's objectives in their respective regions;
- (iii) represent IASSIST in its dealings with external bodies and agencies, particularly those at the national level;
- (iv) serve as members of the Standing Committee on Membership;
- (v) attend all meetings of the General Assembly and the Administrative Committee; and
- (vi) work closely with the Program Director of the Annual Meeting when the latter is scheduled in their particular region.

SECTION 4

DUTIES OF APPOINTIVE OFFICIALS

12.4.1 The Secretary-Archivist shall:

- (i) be appointed by the President of IASSIST with the approval of the Administrative Committee.
- (ii) attend meetings of the Administrative Committee and meetings of the General Assembly and shall record all facts and minutes of all proceedings in the books kept for that purpose;
- (iii) be responsible for the maintenance of IASSIST's records and for its general correspondence;
- (iv) be an ex-officio member of the Nominations and Elections Committee to maintain lists of nominees for office and to assist in the preparation and distribution of ballots;
- (v) be an ex-officio member of the Standing Committee on Constitutional Review to maintain notices of proposed amendments to the Association's constitution and to assist in the preparation and distribution of ballots;
- (vi) give notice of all meetings of the General Assembly and of the Administrative Committee or President.

12.4.2 The Treasurer shall:

- (i) be appointed by the President of IASSIST with the approval of the Administrative Committee.
- (ii) have the custody of the funds and securities of IASSIST and shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to IASSIST and shall deposit all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of IASSIST and in such depositories as may be designated by the Administrative Committee from time to time;
- (iii) disburse the funds of IASSIST as may be ordered by the Administrative Committee;
- (iv) render to the Administrative Committee at its various meetings, or whenever the members of the Administrative Committee may require it, an account of all his/her transactions as Treasurer and of the financial position of IASSIST;
- (v) prepare a written report for submission to the General Assembly at its annual meeting;

- (vi) provide the Standing Committee on Membership with up-to-date mailing lists of all members in good standing in each of the geographic regions;
- (vii) maintain current membership lists which shall be published once per year and provided when needed for the official purposes of the ASSOCIATION and
- (viii) perform such other duties as may from time to time be determined by the Administrative Committee.

12.4.3 The Editor of the Newsletter shall:

- (i) be appointed by the President of IASSIST, on the advice of the Standing Committee on Publications and with the consent of the Administrative Committee, for a term of three calendar years which may be renewed;
- (ii) serve on the Standing Committee on Publications; and
- (iii) be responsible for the regular preparation, publication, and distribution of IASSIST's official Newsletter.

12.4.4 The Program Director of the Annual Meeting shall:

- (i) be appointed by the President of IASSIST with the consent of the Administrative Committee;
- (ii) set up and organize the next annual meeting following the appointment;
- (iii) be responsible for keeping the Administrative Committee regularly informed of all preparations; and
- (iv) work closely with the Regional Secretary in the region in which the annual meeting is to be held.

SECTION 5

COMMITTEES

12.5.1 The Administrative Committee at the time of the annual meeting of the General Assembly shall appoint and/or confirm Standing Committees and shall appoint and/or confirm Chairpersons of the said Standing Committees.

12.5.2 Standing Committees shall advise the Administrative Committee on matters of policy within their particular sphere, and shall have a Chairperson appointed for a three-year term which may be

renewed, two members drawn from the regular membership of IASSIST appointed for a three-year term which may be renewed, one member of the Administrative Committee appointed for a three-year term which may be renewed unless representation from the Administrative Committee is already included in the composition of the Standing Committee in another capacity, and such officers as are designated ex-officio members.

12.5.3 The Standing Committees of IASSIST are the following:

- (i) CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE: responsible for receiving proposals for the enacting, amending, and repealing of the by-laws of IASSIST and for preparing revised articles and by-laws for members' approval, as well as for undertaking an annual review of the constitution and by-laws and proposing amendments as it deems appropriate.
- (ii) EDUCATION COMMITTEE: responsible for the development and advancement of professional programs in education and training and for advising the Administration Committee on the criteria for the approval and certification of such programs.
- (iii) MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: responsible for recruiting membership in IASSIST and for recommending alterations in the classes of membership and dues. This Committee's membership shall include the Regional Secretaries.
- (iv) NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE: responsible for receiving nominations for the election of the Administrative Committee, the Regional Secretaries, and the officers of IASSIST, distributing ballots and electoral information according to regulation, tallying the ballots, reporting on the results of the tally, and for recommending alterations in procedures.
- (v) PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: responsible for advising the Administrative Committee on general publications program policy and for reviewing manuscripts submitted for publication. This Committee's membership shall also include the Editor of the Newsletter.

SECTION 6

ACTION GROUPS

12.6.1 The Administrative Committee, at the time of the annual meeting of the General Assembly, may appoint Action Groups and for every Action Group so appointed a Coordinator shall be named.

12.6.2 A minimum of three (3) members of IASSIST may make application to the Administrative Committee for the establishment of an Action Group at least one month prior to the annual meeting of the General Assembly.

12.6.3 Action Groups shall be expected to undertake specific tasks, to find solutions to specific problems, or to develop and compile relevant materials for specific projects. The mandate or terms of reference of Action Groups shall be clearly defined, including the resources and time required and the specific nature of the output or product.

12.6.4 Action Groups shall report to the Administrative Committee through the Vice-President on matters relating to their particular sphere, and shall have a Coordinator appointed for a one-year term which may be renewed, two or more members of IASSIST appointed for a one-year term which may be renewed, one member of the Administrative Committee appointed for a one-year term which may be renewed, and such officers as are designated ex-officio members.

SECTION 7

INTEREST GROUPS

12.7.1 The Administrative Committee, at the time of the annual meeting of the General Assembly, may appoint Interest Groups and for every Interest Group so appointed a Coordinator shall be named.

12.7.2 A minimum of five (5) members of IASSIST may make application to the Administrative Committee for the establishment of an Interest Group at least one month prior to the annual meeting of the General Assembly.

12.7.3 Interest Groups shall be expected to disseminate information on specific subjects and to serve as a forum of discussion between as well as during annual meetings.

12.7.4 Interest Groups shall report to the Administrative Committee through the Vice-President on matters relating to their particular sphere, and shall have a Coordinator appointed for a one-year term which may be renewed, four or more members of IASSIST appointed for a one-year term which may be renewed, and such officers as are designated ex-officio members.

SECTION 8

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS PROCEDURES

Any regular member in good standing is eligible to hold office in IASSIST.

12.8.1 The Administrative Committee and the Officers

- (i) Every three years, commencing in 1984, the Administrative Committee, President and Vice-President shall be elected from

a slate of candidates put forward by the Standing Committee on Nominations and Elections.

- (ii) During the fall of any election year, any member in good standing may submit in writing to the Nominations and Elections Committee, the names of as many as seven (7) persons for the slate of candidates regardless of the geographic region in which the nominees reside.
- (iii) All nominations must be accompanied by a written statement from the nominees declaring their willingness to stand for election and an outline of the qualifications of the nominees.
- (iv) The Nominations and Elections Committee will compile a list of nominees which shall be reviewed by the Administrative Committee and will mail ballots to the membership during the fall/winter of any election year.
- (v) All members in good standing, regardless of the geographic region in which they reside, shall be eligible to vote for a limited number of nominees from each geographic region. The number of nominees from each region will be specified on the ballot, based on each region's percentage of the total membership of IASSIST. Voting will take place over a period of one month during any election year, but in no instance will it extend beyond mid-December.
- (vi) The results of the election shall be announced by the end of December in every election year. The results shall be published in the first issue of the Newsletter following the election.
- (vii) Newly elected members of the Administrative Committee and the Officers shall take office after the annual meeting of the General Assembly following the elections.

12.8.2 The Regional Secretaries

- (i) Every three years, commencing in 1984, the Regional Secretaries shall be elected from a slate of candidates put forward by the Standing Committee on Nominations and Elections.
- (ii) During the fall of any election year, any member in good standing in a particular geographic region may submit in writing to the Nominations and Elections Committee, the name of a person for Regional Secretary who must reside in the same geographic region as the nominator.
- (iii) A nomination must be accompanied by a written statement from the nominee declaring his/her willingness to stand for election; a statement indicating that the nominee has

institutional support to undertake the duties; and an outline of the qualifications of the nominee.

- (iv) The Nominations and Elections Committee will compile lists of nominees and mail appropriate ballots to the membership of each geographic region during the fall/winter of any election year.
- (v) All members in good standing in each geographic region shall be eligible to vote for the Regional Secretary for that particular geographic region. Voting will take place over a period of one month during any election year, but in no instance will it extend beyond mid-December.
- (vi) The results of the election shall be announced by the end of December in every election year. The results shall be published in the first issue of the Newsletter following the election.
- (vii) Newly elected Regional Secretaries shall take office after the annual meeting of the General Assembly following the elections.



A SURVEY OF ICPSR MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Ann Janda
Vogelback Computing Center
Northwestern University

INTRODUCTION

At the meeting of the ICPSR Official Representatives (ORs) held at Ann Arbor on November 11-14, 1983, a brief survey of member institutions was handed out to attending members. The survey was drawn up at Northwestern University by Lorraine Borman and Ann Janda (Vogelback Computing Center) in an effort to find out what other universities were doing in planning for a distributed computing environment. The questionnaire asked for information about what services are provided to access ICPSR data, mainframe and software usage, current extent of micro usage, and a final open-ended "future plans" question. Out of approximately 150 meeting participants, 38 responded to the questionnaire.

This report discusses the results of the survey and provides two appendices: (A) an index to universities and their mainframes, and (B) a listing by university describing hardware, software, services, and future plans. (*Appendix B available from Ann Janda, Vogelback Computing Center, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois 60201.*)

COMMENTARY ON SURVEY RESULTS BY QUESTION

1. Availability of ICPSR hardcopy codebooks:

18 at departmental site
15 at university library
9 at central computer site
6 at some other location

The above results show that most institutions housed their codebooks at the department with the university library running a close second. The actual totals to this question ran higher because from the 38 responding institutions, 7 located their codebooks at more than one site, generally with a department/library combination. Research institutes largely fell into the "other" category, accounting for 4 of these 6 responses; one research institute identified with a department.

-
2. Computer programs such as database management systems to identify and access datasets? If yes, which?

13 Yes
25 No

This was probably an ambiguous question. For those who answered "yes", the responses fell into two categories: (1) software that provided tape access to the data or (2) software that identified the studies by title or abstract. No two programs mentioned were alike. The software programs are listed in Appendix B.

3. Personal assistance in identifying and accessing datasets?

23 at departmental site
12 at central computer site
8 at some other location
7 at university library

According to the above results, by far the greatest assistance in identifying and accessing datasets is given in the department. As in question 1, more than one answer was checked, and indeed, 7 departments shared this function with the library and computing center. Most of the responses in the "other" category pertained to social science research laboratories or institutes.

4. Computer programs for graphic analysis of data? If yes, which?

24 Yes
11 No

Of those who responded 'yes', most used SAS/GRAPH. SPSS PLOT was another popular package as was TEL-A-GRAF Display (spelled 3 different ways on the questionnaires). The graphics programs are also enumerated in Appendix B.

5. Consulting on statistical analysis of ICPSR data:

25 at central computer site
24 at departmental site
9 at some other location
1 at university library

The above figures splitting the statistical consulting load between the department and the computing center accurately reflect the number of multiple responses falling into the combined department/computing center pattern. Slightly more than

half of the institutions provided this combination of statistical consulting. Most of the research labs ("other" location) shared this function with both the computing center and the department.

6. How are your ICPSR data stored?

- 37 magnetic tape
- 20 system files, e.g., SPSS or SAS files
- 15 raw data files
- 14 disk packs

Almost all of the member institutions store their data on magnetic tape--probably as they are originally received from the ICPSR. In addition to storage on magnetic tapes, more than half convert at least some of the data to SPSS or SAS system files. Disk packs also seem to enjoy considerable use.

7. Do you offer subsetting services for large data files?

- 20 Yes
- 17 No

The responses indicate that a little more than half of the institutions provide some form of subsetting for their users. Although the responses were straightforward, it is not clear whether the services provided only consulting and programs enabling the user to subset the large dataset--or actually "doing the subsetting" for the user and delivering a smaller dataset based on user specifications. The latter option was intended.

8. Is documentation available online?

- 17 Yes
- 19 No

Although the responses to this question showed a fairly even split among ICPSR members in providing online documentation, some of the additional comments to this question indicated that this may have also been ambiguously phrased. While a few comments referred to availability of "abstracts", a few others referred to the use of machine-readable codebooks and dictionaries on tape. Obviously, online documentation could be construed either as study descriptions/abstracts--or as actual data documentation, e.g., codebooks and data dictionaries. While the online study descriptions were the target of this probe, the online codebooks have more interesting and powerful applications.

9. What mainframe computer(s) are used for storing and processing ICPSR data?

18 IBM	3 PRIME
13 DEC	3 Others
8 CDC	2 UNIVAC

The above figures indicate that leaders in hardware are IBM, DEC, and CDC--in that order. Within the "other" category are two AMDAHLs and a Hewlett-Packard 3000. A more detailed enumeration of specific models by university is indexed in Appendix A.

10. If more than one mainframe is used, how are data transferred?

In all, there were 12 responses to this question, ranging from the use of DECNET, ETHERNET, tapes, to locally developed software and utilities. Specifics are found in Appendix B.

11. What mainframe analytical packages are used with ICPSR data?

	Mostly	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
SPSS:	35	2	0	1
SAS:	10	11	1	14
BMDP:	1	13	15	7
OSIRIS:	0	8	10	18
SIR:	0	4	5	27
Other:	1	6	2	1

It is no surprise that SPSS and SAS are the most commonly used statistical packages for the mainframe. BMDP comes in as the next contender with high usage in the used "sometimes" and "seldom" categories. The comparatively low frequency of usage for SIR could most likely be explained by its relative newness in the market. Among packages named by respondents in the "other" category were MINITAB, ABC, TSP, SCSS, MIDAS, DATATEXT, and TROLL. From this group SCSS was noted as most commonly used by one institution; the remaining packages fell largely into the "sometimes/seldom" category with MINITAB usage noted at 5 institutions.

12. What use is made of microcomputers in analyzing ICPSR data?

0 a great deal	8 some	30 none or virtually none
----------------	--------	---------------------------

Micros have not made much headway as consistently used tools for statistical analysis--yet. Although the number of responses in the "none or virtually none" category seems high, a few were

qualified by remarks referring to the early arrival of additional micros, pending changes to increase the use of micros, and current use by individual faculty and user groups. Also as more statistical packages become available, more use is anticipated.

13. If microcomputers are used for analyzing ICPSR data on your campus, please describe how the datasets are downloaded for use:

There were a total of 9 responses to this question. Two institutions used KERMIT; the remainder variously responded with COMTTY, SMARTTERM PC, locally developed software, public domain software, an interactive mainframe program via SUPERWYLBUR--on through "the problem is currently being addressed."

14. If microcomputers are used, what are the most common machines and analysis programs?

From 11 responses, the most frequently mentioned micro was the IBM PC followed by the APPLE IIE. IBM-XTs appeared among the sprinkling of Victors, Zeniths, TERA克斯, Radio Shacks (probably TRS-80s), and TI Professionals. No clear pattern of software use emerged. Comments referred to uses other than statistical, e.g., as spreadsheets and as terminals hooked to mainframe statistical programs. It appears that presently micro stat packages are largely under consideration for use/purchase, e.g., one of the institutions is reviewing Statgraphics, Statpak, and other programs.

15. Are you planning to change your existing method of access and distribution in the next two-three years? If so, how?

Twenty three respondents answered "yes" to this question. Their elaborations mainly pointed to the increased use of micros. For many this increase is linked with networking, workstations, shared storage, and subsetting datasets for micros. A few mentioned a move toward creating a social science laboratory. The complete references to future plans are printed in Appendix B.

SUMMARY: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

We have reviewed information on hardware, software, and services provided to users of ICPSR data at 38 member institutions. For most institutions, the department is the most important site providing services to data users, e.g., codebooks and personal assistance in identifying datasets. The central computing site is next most important, and the library's role

is limited largely to storing codebooks. SPSS is by far the most common program for analyzing ICPSR data, and about half the institutions store data prepared for analysis in SPSS or SAS system files. ICPSR data are still analyzed primarily through computers at the central site, despite the popularity of microcomputers. Indeed, NO respondent reported extensive use of microcomputers, and 30 said that they made little or no use of microcomputers at present. Although most respondents reported future plans for analyzing ICPSR data with microcomputers, the revolution has not yet occurred.

APPENDIX A: UNIVERSITIES AND MAINFRAMES INDEX

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	IBM, MODEL: 3081
AUBURN UNIVERSITY	IBM, MODEL: 3033
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY	DEC * UNIVAC
BARUCH COLLEGE, CUNY	IBM
BOWDOIN COLLEGE	DEC, MODEL: 10
BRYN MAWR COLLEGE	OTHER: HP 3000
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO	CDC, MODEL: 170 SERIES, 720 LOCALLY-- 730 AND 760 CENTRALLY IN LOS ANGELES
CARNEGIE-MELLON UNIVERSITY	DEC, MODEL: 20'S AND VAXS
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY	CDC * WE HOLD TAPES AND USE AS NEEDED
COLBY COLLEGE	DEC, MODEL: VAX
CORNELL UNIVERSITY	IBM, MODEL: 3081 * DEC, MODEL: 1020
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	CDC, MODEL: 760, 730
HUNTER COLLEGE, CUNY	IBM, MODEL: 370 SYSTEM, 3081
INDIANA UNIVERSITY	DEC, MODEL: VAX & PDP 11/44 * CDC, MODEL: 170 /855 (MOST USE) * PRIME
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO	IBM, MODEL: 30335
NORTH TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY	IBM COMPATIBLE, MODEL: NAS 8040
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY	DEC, MODEL: VAX 11/780 * CDC, MODEL: CYBER 170/730
OHIO WESLEYAN	DEC, MODEL: VAX 750 AND TWO 730'S
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY	IBM, MODEL: 3081
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY	IBM COMPATIBLE, MODEL: NAS/9000-2 * DEC, MODEL: VAX 730, VAX 780
SSRC DATA ARCHIVE	DEC, MODEL: 10
SWARTHMORE COLLEGE	PRIME, MODEL: 750
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY	CDC, MODEL: 172, 174 (SOON, 750)
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY	IBM, MODEL: 3033
TRINITY COLLEGE, YALE FEDERATION	IBM (AT YALE)
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA	OTHER: AMDAHL 5860
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES	IBM, MODEL: 3033, AND 4341
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	IBM
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA	IBM, MODEL: 3033 * PRIME, MODEL: 750
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON	IBM, MODEL: 4341 * DEC, MODEL: 1051
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH	DEC, MODEL: 1099
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	IBM, MODEL: 360
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH	UNIVAC

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

CDC, MODEL: 750-150
IBM, MODEL: 3031
CDC
IBM, MODEL: 4341 * DEC, MODEL: VAX 11/780 (5)
OTHER: AMDAHL 420

BOOKS

POLITICAL TERRORISM:

A RESEARCH GUIDE TO CONCEPTS, THEORIES, DATA BASES AND LITERATURE

by ALEX P. SCHMID, *Centre for the Study of Social Conflicts, State University of Leiden, Leiden, The Netherlands*

1984 XIV + 586 PAGES
PRICE, US, \$40.50 (IN USA & CANADA)
DFL. 95.00 (REST OF WORLD)
ISBN 0-444-85602-1 PAPERBACK
APPROX. PUBLICATION DATE: 12/84

This extensive handbook surveys contemporary social science thinking on political terrorism.

As a reference work it provides the reader with the largest bibliography on the subject--a computer-based, partly annotated, 4000+ item, multi-disciplinary, multi-lingual literature survey covering aspects of theory and practice. Apart from regional and country entries, it carries subdivisions on such varied aspects as nuclear terrorism, hostage saving measures, state terrorism, etc. Divided into 21 major and 46 minor categories, this author-index bibliography covers legal, psychological, sociological, military and ideological aspects of political terrorism.

The handbook also includes a 130-page "World Directory of 'Terrorist' Organizations and Other Groups, Movements, and Parties involved in Political Violence as Initiators or Targets of Armed Violence," which has been compiled by A.J. Jongman.

An 80-page survey of current thinking on the origins of terrorist violence in various contexts provides insight into the sociological, psychological, conspiratorial theories on the subject, and attention is given also to the theories of regime terrorism and those of the terrorists themselves.

A further section in the volume discusses and evaluates available data bases for the study of terrorism such as those of the CIA, RAND, etc. The accessibility and the reliability of data on terrorism are discussed and data requirements for social science research are indicated.

Finally, the present state of the literature on terrorism is discussed, and research desiderata and strategies pointed out.

CONTENTS: Forward by I.L. Horowitz.
Introduction. Parts: I. Concepts.
II. Theories. III. Data Bases.
IV. Literature.

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This block contains a collection of 30 decorative motifs arranged in a grid. The motifs include:

- Top row: A circular monogram, a leaping deer, a shield with a butterfly, a large owl in an ornate frame, and a large vertical panel of a peacock.
- Second row: A circular monogram, a shield with a floral design, a square with a floral pattern, and a circular medallion with a peacock tail.
- Third row: A shield with a floral design, a square with a floral pattern, a circular medallion with a peacock tail, and a vertical panel of a peacock.
- Fourth row: A shield with a floral design, a leaping deer, a circular medallion with a peacock tail, and a vertical panel of a peacock.
- Fifth row: A shield with a floral design, a shield with a floral design, a circular medallion with a peacock tail, and a vertical panel of a peacock.
- Sixth row: A shield with a floral design, a shield with a floral design, a circular medallion with a peacock tail, and a vertical panel of a peacock.
- Seventh row: A shield with a floral design, a shield with a floral design, a circular medallion with a peacock tail, and a vertical panel of a peacock.
- Eighth row: A shield with a floral design, a shield with a floral design, a circular medallion with a peacock tail, and a vertical panel of a peacock.
- Ninth row: A shield with a floral design, a shield with a floral design, a circular medallion with a peacock tail, and a vertical panel of a peacock.
- Tenth row: A shield with a floral design, a shield with a floral design, a circular medallion with a peacock tail, and a vertical panel of a peacock.

Washington, D.C.--The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and the Bureau of Social Science Research, Inc. (BSSR) have announced the transfer of the SSRC Library Collection on Social Indicators to BSSR.

Developed over the 10-year life of SSRC's Center for the Coordination of Research on Social Indicators, the library's collection consists of 1,500 catalogued books and reports; nearly 1,200 publications from both the U.S. Census and the U.N. World Fertility Survey; specialized articles, papers, and periodicals; over 600 social reports of foreign, state, and local governments; and various statistical compendia. The transferred materials either supplement the subject specialties at BSSR (survey methodology, program evaluation, statistical analysis, social policy, criminology and criminal justice, education, employment and training and public opinion research) or complement these areas with the special SSRC strengths in social indicators methodology and demographic, Census publications, and social reports.

Kenneth Prewitt, president of the Council, in approving the transfer, remarked, "When we decided to close the social indicators center, we gave priority to donating the library to an organization that would make a commitment to maintain and enhance the collection and to make it available to the research community. We are extremely pleased that the Bureau of Social Science Research has given the library a new home, particularly because BSSR has long been a part of the social indicators research community." Albert H. Cantril, director of BSSR, noted in

SSRC TRANSFER--

--continued

accepting the library that "the collection is an immensely rich resource and we are grateful to SSRC for entrusting it to us."

Cantril also announced that BSSR has received a grant from the National Science Foundation to integrate the SSRC collection into BSSR's existing library both physically and bibliographically. To date, the U.S. Census reports and major statistical serials (including backfiles of current Population Reports, Vital and Health Statistics series) have been catalogued and placed, and journals and newsletters have been integrated. The BSSR bibliographic system is being refined to accommodate specialized indexing of social indicators topics, and new acquisitions will keep the social indicators holdings up-to-date.

Cantril stressed BSSR's intent to make the Social Indicators Collection maximally useful to scholars interested in social indicators and social reporting. Persons interested in use of the collection should contact BSSR librarians, Lucy Duff or Mary Hartz, 1990 "M" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 223-4300.

AAAS Award Announcement

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has announced that it is accepting applications for its 1984 Socio-Psychological Prize. The \$1000 prize, established in 1952 with funds donated by Arthur F. Bentley, is given annually for a manuscript that increases our understanding of psychological, social, or cultural behavior.

Entries for the competition must be received by September 15, 1984. The winning manuscript will be chosen by a committee of judges appointed by the Executive Officer of AAAS, in consultation with officers of the AAAS Sections on Anthropology, Psychology, and Social, Economic and Political Sciences. Unpublished manuscripts or manuscripts published after January 1, 1983 are both eligible. The prize will be awarded at the AAAS 1985 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. For entry forms and additional information, write:

AAAS EXECUTIVE OFFICE
1515 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005



I A S S I S T



MAY 14-18

The 1984 Conference is to be held at the Park Lane Hotel in downtown Ottawa from Monday, May 14 to Friday, May 18. The theme of the conference will be "Coming of Age in the Brave New World." Sub themes will address a variety of topics of interest to social scientists, data archivists, librarians, research administrators, computer specialists, and government records administrators. Papers will be presented in three general areas:

1. Coping with Big Brother (Privacy and Confidentiality)
2. Pursuing Technological Nirvana (The Advance of Technology)
3. The Information Empire (Roles and Responsibilities)

The Conference will open with a major address and a panel discussion.

A number of half-day and full day workshops covering such issues as "Planning a Data Library," "Complex Data Structures," and "Micro-Computer Applications" will be offered on Tuesday, May 15. Time has also been set aside for Association business including committee meetings and the Annual General meeting.

The members of the Local Arrangements Committee are ensuring that there will be sufficient time to socialize and to enjoy the pleasures that Ottawa has to offer. As an example, the Conference has been timed to provide participants with the opportunity to enjoy the annual Festival of Spring. In addition, Committee members are planning a number of receptions, tours and other social activities designed to make your stay in Ottawa an enjoyable one. For information about local arrangements please contact John McDonald, c/o Machine Readable Archives Division, Public Archives, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N3, (613) 593-7772.

For further information on our planning activities please write or call:

Harold Naugler (Programme Chairperson)
c/o Machine Readable Archives Division
Public Archives of Canada
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THE UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX PRESENTS THE 17TH ESSEX SUMMER SCHOOL IN

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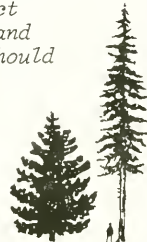
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